

ORIGINAL

Division
CCDKT 96-4



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554
SEP 1 1998

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SEP 18 1998

Sister Rosemary McGuire, O.P.
2450 S. Franklin Street Road
Decatur, IL 62521

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Dear Sister McGuire:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton expressing your views regarding the implementation of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The White House has asked me to respond to your message.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommendation to provide discounts for telecommunications services for schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent, with economically disadvantaged schools and libraries receiving the greatest discounts. The Commission adopted the Joint Board's recommended rule that would give schools and libraries maximum flexibility to apply their universal service discount to whatever package of telecommunications services they believe will meet their needs most effectively and efficiently. In addition to all telecommunications services, discounts may be applied to Internet access and internal connections.

The annual cap for the schools and libraries program is \$2.25 billion. During the first half of 1998, the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) was directed to collect \$625 million for the school and libraries mechanism. Schools and libraries should begin to receive discounts this fall.

On June 12, 1998, the Commission revised the funding year for the schools and libraries support mechanism and froze the amount of funding for schools and libraries at current rates. With regard to the schools and libraries support mechanism, the Commission directed USAC to collect and disperse no more than \$325 million per quarter for the third and fourth quarters of 1998 and the first and second quarters of 1999. Because the revised funding amounts will not fully satisfy the estimated demand by the schools and libraries that have submitted applications, the Commission revised the disbursement rules to ensure that the most disadvantaged schools and libraries get priority for support. The annual cap remains unchanged. Although the collection amounts have been revised, we will continue our commitment to provide support to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.

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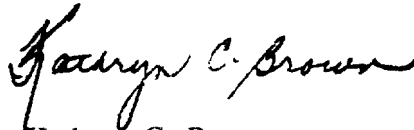
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Sister Rosemary McGuire, O.P.

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The Commission appreciates your interest in this important issue. Your letter will be entered into the public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket 96-45).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown".

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

7 7. 81
DATE

5913

MEMORANDUM FOR: FCC 37

FROM:

SUE J. SMITH *sgs*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

From romarym@yahoo.com Thu Jul 16 12:05:33 1998
Date: Thu, 16 Jul 1998 08:53:57 -0700 (PDT)
From: Rosemary McGuire <romarym@yahoo.com>
Subject: E-Rate
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Message-id: <19980716155357.10346.rocketmail@send1d.yahoo.com>

Content-transfer-encoding: 7BIT
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

Sister Rosemary McGuire, O.P.
2450 S Franklin St Rd
Decatur, IL 62521

Dear President Clinton

Please support full funding and services for the E-Rate
telecommunications
discounts for schools and libraries. We and many other schools are
counting on
these funds. We have already begun internal connections in our schools
only to
find that the schools may not get the needed discount. This puts
enormous
restraints on our already tight school budgets.

Please, oppose any further effort to undermine, eliminate, or delay the
E-Rate
program in upcoming congressional appropriations. Do not have it turned
over
simply to the state to administer without demanding that All schools be
included. Our state has traditionally excluded any private schools
from their
funding unless mandated by the federal government.

Sincerely,

Sister Rosemary McGuire, O.P.

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